

Government of the District of Columbia

Department of Transportation



July 9, 2020

Kevin Wilsey, Chairperson
Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2C
P.O. Box 51181
Techworld Station
Washington, DC 20091
2C03@anc.dc.gov

NOI# 20-007-TDD

Re: Car Free Lanes in Ward 2

Dear Chairperson Wilsey,

Pursuant to the “Administrative Procedure Amendment Act of 2000” D.C. LAW 13-249 (48 DCR 3491 April 20, 2001), the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is required to give a written notice of our intent (NOI) to modify traffic and/or parking requirements.

The District Department of Transportation (DDOT) is launching three quick-build bus priority projects to help residents safely and efficiently travel everywhere they live, work, and play in the District. The 7th Street Car Free Lanes will be restricted to buses, trucks, and bicycles 24 hours a day on 7th Street NW between Massachusetts Avenue NW and Pennsylvania Avenue NW, and on G Street NW between 7th Street NW and 8th Street NW.

The 7th Street NW Car Free Lanes is part of DDOT’s Bus Priority program, the Bowser Administration’s initiative to enhance bus speed and reliability across all eight wards of the District. These bus priority projects are implemented quickly, require minimal design, and help address current and future needs for Metrobus and Circulator service. Dedicated bus lanes will allow WMATA and Circulator to efficiently operate their routes and help passengers to avoid crowds and maintain physical distance on buses. Following installation, DDOT will study the performance of buses, bicycles, and traffic in the corridor to assess benefits, impacts, and necessary refinements. This letter is being forwarded to you for the purpose of notification and solicitation of comments of our intent to implement the following in your jurisdiction.

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This project will also include an assessment of effects on historical and cultural resources in accordance with the Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA). DDOT is inviting anyone, who is interested, to participate in the Section 106 process as a consulting party.

The details of the project have been reviewed and refined by key teams at DDOT including: Vision Zero, Traffic Engineering and Signals, Traffic Operations and Safety, Planning and Sustainability (Active Transportation and Freight Planning), Parking and Ground Transportation, and Transit Delivery. The project lies within the boundaries of ANC 2C.

In addition to 7th Street NW, DDOT will implement quick-build red bus lane projects on the following corridors:

- M Street SE between Half Street SE and 10th Street SE
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue between W Street SE and St. Elizabeths East Campus

More information on all of the Car Free Lane corridors has been posted on DDOT's website: <https://ddot.dc.gov/page/car-free-lanes-buses-and-bikes>

Below is a map of the project boundaries and elements of the 7th Street NW project.

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DDOT will implement Car Free Lanes on 7th Street NW between Pennsylvania Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue and G Street NW between 7th Street and 8th Street that will:

- Allow **only** buses, bikes, and trucks to travel through 24 hours/day;
- Create expanded sidewalks into the parking lane to promote safe distancing for pedestrians; these sidewalk extensions will be located anywhere that there is not a bus stop or commercial loading zone;
- Provide designated pick-up / drop-off and commercial loading zones on the east/west cross streets to accommodate passenger and additional commercial loading;
- And restrict all other traffic (including taxis and TNCs) except to access garages on 7th Street between I Street and Massachusetts Avenue NW; one-way northbound access will also be permitted on 7th Street between Pennsylvania and Indiana Avenues NW to allow for vehicular access onto Indiana Avenue eastbound.

The Car Free Lanes will be painted red to designate their use. White bicycle shared lane pavement markings will also be installed in the Car Free Lanes. The sidewalk extensions will be painted tan to match the existing curb extensions. They will be separated from the Car Free Lanes with flexible posts, wheel stops, and planters.

All metered parking on 7th Street NW between Pennsylvania Avenue and Massachusetts Avenue will be replaced with sidewalk extensions. Up to five spaces of metered parking on each side of the east/west cross streets will be replaced with pick-up / drop-off and commercial loading zones. Overall, approximately 200 parking spaces will be converted to create the expanded sidewalks and pick-up / drop-off and commercial loading zones. Sunday angled parking on G Street NW between 7th Street and 8th Street will be maintained.

In addition, DDOT will implement the following traffic operations changes to facilitate vehicles diverted from 7th Street NW:

- Conversion of one of the two existing northbound through lanes on 7th Street NW approaching Pennsylvania Avenue to a second northbound left turn lane;

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- Designation of the two southbound lanes on 7th Street NW approaching Massachusetts Avenue as left only and through / right. Left turns will be allowed at all times; and
- Addition of a straight / left turn lane on the east side of 9th Street NW between Pennsylvania Avenue and D Street. Approximately seven metered parking spaces will be converted to the new straight / left turn lane.

All comments on this subject matter must be filed in writing by September 21, 2020 (fifty-one business days after the date of this notice), with the District Department of Transportation, Haley Peckett, Project Delivery Division, 55 M Street SE Washington, DC 20003 or by email at haley.peckett@dc.gov. DDOT will review and evaluate comments and make any necessary adjustments to the corridor following implementation.

If you would like to check the status of this Notice of Intent (NOI), please visit DDOT's website at <https://ddot.dc.gov/service/ddot-notice-intent>. If you are having any trouble accessing the NOI site or are unable to do so, please contact the DDOT Customer Service Clearinghouse at 202-671-2800.

Sincerely,

Haley Peckett

Project Manager

Project Delivery Division

Cc: Michael D. Shankle, Commissioner ANC 2C01
Nyasha Smith, Secretary to the Council of the District of Columbia
Sherri Kimbel, Director of Constituent Services for Councilmember Pinto
Nicole Goines, Ward 2 Liaison, Mayor's Office of Community Relations and Services
Neil Albert, President and Executive Director of the DowntownDC BID